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In re PATENT APPLICATION of
Hellbusch et al.
Appln. No.: 09/897,103



Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: July 3, 2001

FOR: ENTERLINK CONDUCTOR

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Technology Center 2100

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 CFR §1.102(d)

October 25, 2001

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants hereby petition pursuant to MPEP §708.02(VIII) to make the above-identified U.S. patent application special.

If it is determined that the pending claims are not directed to a single invention, Applicants will make an election without traverse as required under MPEP §708.02(VIII)(b).

Applicants submit that a pre-examination search has been made by a professional searcher in the following Classes:

Class 370, subclasses 252, 257, 364, and 365

Class 705, subclasses 80, 1, 36, 37, 39, 500

Class 709, subclasses 200, 201, 203, 218, 217, 219, 220, 223, 227, 229, 232, 226, 250, 311, 328, 400.

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Enclosed herewith are copies of the following references, which are presently, from among those of record, the most closely related to the subject matter, encompassed by the claims.

<u>U.S. PATENT NO.</u>	<u>INVENTOR(S)</u>
6,070,189	Bender et al.
6,065,037	Hitz et al.
6,065,027	Cashman et al.
5,896,530	White
5,828,855	Walker
5,812,639	Bartholomew et al.
5,691,973	Ramstrom et al.
5,592,477	Farris et al.
5,864,542	Gupta et al.
6,175,854	Bretscher
6,141,653	Conklin et al.
6,289,382	Bowman-Amuah
6,292,659	Olds et al.

DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE REFERENCES

U.S. Patent No. 6,070,189 - Bender et al.

This patent discloses a method, apparatus and program product for detecting a communication event in a distributed parallel data processing system in which a message is sent from an origin to a target. A low-level application programming interface (LAPI) is provided

which has an operation for associating a counter with a communication event to be detected. The LAPI increments the counter upon the occurrence of the communication event. The number in the counter is monitored, and when the number increases, the event is detected. A completion counter in the origin is associated with the completion of a message being sent from the origin to the target. When the message is completed, LAPI increments the completion counter such that monitoring the completion counter detects the completion of the message. The completion counter may be used to insure that a first message has been sent from the origin to the target and completed before a second message is sent.

U.S. Patent No. 6,065,037 – Hitz et al.

This patent discloses a computer system employing a multiple facility of operating system architecture. The computer system includes a plurality of processor units for implementing a predetermined set of peer-level facilities wherein each peer-level facility includes a plurality of related functions and a communications bus for interconnecting the processor units. Each of the processor units includes a central processor and the stored program that, upon execution, provides for the implementation of a predetermined peer-level facility of the predetermined set of peer-level facilities, and for performing a multi-tasking interface function. The multi-tasking interface function is responsive to control messages for selecting for execution functions of the predetermined peer-level facility and that is responsive to the predetermined peer-level facility for providing control messages to request or to respond to the performance of functions of another peer-level facility of the computer system. The multi-tasking interface functions of each of the plurality of processor units communicate among one another via the network bus.

U.S. Patent No. 6,065,027 - Cashman et al.

This patent discloses a programmable data communications device that processes multiple streams of data according to multiple protocols. The device is equipped with a co-processor including multiple, programmable processors allowing data to be operated on by multiple protocols. The programmable processors within the co-processor include extended instruction sets including instructions providing the operations of zero stuffing, CRC computation, partial compare, conditional move, and trie traversal. These instructions allow the processor(s) of the co-processor to more efficiently execute programs implementing data communications protocols. Since each processor is programmable, protocols standards which change may be accommodated. A network device equipped with the co-processor can handle multiple simultaneous streams of data and can implement multiple protocols on each data stream. The protocols can execute within the co-processor either independently of each other, or in conjunction with each other.

U.S. Patent No. 5,896,530 - White

This patent discloses a system and method for enabling a plurality of computers and associated computer resources, some or all of which may be of heterogeneous configuration, to cooperatively process various application such that the execution is transparent to the user regardless of where the application is actually executing. This distributed applications architecture performs an information distribution service between multiple transaction processing systems by working with a transaction processor via communication channels to other hosts within the network and a dialog manager which uses a transaction processor via

communication channels to other host within he network and a dialog manager which uses a transaction processor interface to communication with the transaction processor. The architecture employs a map service which provides an editor to create the maps for the application panels, a compiler to generate the maps into a linkable form, and linkable interpreter which translates the linkable form into the screen presentation format for that platform. To distribute an application, the source code for the procedures, views and panels are moved as a block to the new system. This is possible because once the application source code is complete, all application logic, user interface control tables, view definitions, and other application specific tables for one transaction definition are packaged by the present invention in a single load module on the system where the application will reside. The load module is then complied using the target system's compiler, link editor, and bind process. Thus, all environment-dependant variation of import/export are automatically integrated with the application at load module bind time, requiring no source code changes.

U.S. Patent No. 5,828,855 - Walker

This patent discloses a network printing system for allowing a single channel connection to support multiple channel connections when implemented over a direct connect, non-network device. More particularly, a socket simulation protocol (SSP) is incorporated into the printing system for providing multiple data paths for allowing serial based host drivers to interact with the network printer in the same synchronous model as in multiple connection based drivers. SSP enables a normalized interface to the printing system so that various heterogeneous network services protocol/ports may interact in the same way and for also enabling new protocol/ports to be easily extended and integrated into the network printing system.

U.S. Patent No. 5,812,639 - Bartholomew et al.

This patent discloses a system and method of effecting transfer of message information of varied types from one centralized messaging system to another messaging device in a switched communications network having a plurality of central offices connected to subscriber terminals and connected together by trunks wherein the transfer of the message is effected through a common channel signaling network without using the trunks.

U.S. Patent No. 5,691,973 - Ramstrom et al.

This patent discloses a software architecture for use in program controlled telecommunications switching exchanges in which application modules are employed to provide services to users of a particular communications application. Resource modules provide specific functional elements of communications services to the application modules by having access to and control over the exchange hardware. Network protocols provide communication between the application modules within the exchange and interfaces provide communications between the resource modules and between application modules and resource modules within the exchange.

U.S. Patent No. 5,592,477 - Farris et al.

This patent discloses an Intelligent Signaling Transfer Point (ISTP) of the common channel interoffice signaling (CCIS) network that provides high level control of signaling message routing and of processing of calls relating to telephone services, broadcast services, interactive broadband services and packet switched data services. A network in accord with present invention includes central office telephone switching systems and local routers. Each

local router also is coupled through a trunk circuit to one of the telephone switching systems. The local router selectively provides switched telephone call communications services to a plurality of telephone stations coupled thereto. The local router also receives broadband digital signals from a broadband trunk circuit and selectively supplies broadband digital signals to a plurality of digital terminals. The ISTP includes a data switch, a database and a program controlled processor. The switch switches signaling messages between signaling links coupled to the switching systems and the local routers. The database stores call processing data for control of at least some call processing through both the telephone central office switching system and local router. The program controlled processor recognizes a predetermined condition with regard to at least one call related signaling message from any of the switching systems or local routers during processing of any service call. In response, the processor obtains call processing information from the database, and transmits a signaling message containing the call processing information to the central office switching system or the local router to control subsequent processing of the call.

U.S. Patent No. 5,864,542 - Gupta et al.

This patent discloses a Scalable Multimedia Network providing integrated networking of data, voice, video and image services over a variety of access facilities including metallic loops, fiber/coax or digital fiber. The SMN provides a broadcast switch using a tiered system of buses. Channel units are made to interface to a bus of any tier depending on bandwidth requirements of the particular channel units. The SMN is based on a distributed switching platform that enables carriers to economically provide service to a small number of customers and add capacity incrementally as the customer base increases. The platform has a protocol adaptation capability

which permits communications between customer premises equipment and potentially incompatible backbone networks or network servers.

U.S. Patent No. 6,175,854 – Bretscher

This patent discloses an architecture for a computer system that runs applications serving multiple users. The computer system includes multiple processors, some of which run quick applications, i.e., requiring real time response, while others run applications with less stringent requirements. Each real time processor can be dedicated to running just one instance of an application. The processors can be of disparate types running disparate operating systems and optimized for disparate applications. The system is centrally controlled with the processors communicating among themselves over a shared LAN or via a communications switch. The system may also facilitate simultaneous voice and data communications among users. Users communicate with the system using any of a number of standard techniques: including dial-up telephone lines, ISDN, packet access services, ADSL, cable TV and the like.

U.S. Patent No. 6,141,653 - Conklin et al.

This patent discloses a multivariate negotiations engine for iterative bargaining which: enables a sponsor to create and administer a community between participants such as buyers and sellers having similar interests; allows a buyer/participant to search and evaluate seller information, propose and negotiate orders and counteroffers that include all desired terms, request sample quantities, and track activity; allows a seller/participant to use remote authoring templates to create a complete Website for immediate integration and activation in the community, to evaluate proposed buyer orders and counteroffers, and to negotiate multiple

variables such as prices, terms, conditions etc., iteratively with a buyer. The system provides secure databases, search engines, and other tools for use by the sponsor, which enable the sponsor to define the terms of community participation, establish standards, help promote the visibility of participating companies, monitor activity, collect fees, and promote successes. All this is done through a multivariate negotiations engine system operated at the system provider's Internet site, thus requiring no additional software at the sponsors', or participant sellers', or buyer's sites. This also allows buyers and sellers to use and negotiate payment options and methods that are accepted internationally. The system maintains internal databases that contain the history of all transactions in each community, so that sponsors, buyers and sellers may retrieve appropriate records to document each stage of interaction and negotiation. Documents are created by the system during the negotiation process.

U.S. Patent No. 6,289,382 - Bowman-Amuah

This patent discloses a system, method, and article of manufacture for delivering service via a globally addressable interface. A plurality of interfaces are provided with access allowed to a plurality of different sets of services from each of the interfaces. Each interface has a unique set of services associated therewith. Each of the interfaces is named with a name indicative of the unique set of services associated therewith. The names of the interfaces are then broadcast to a plurality of systems requiring service.

U.S. Patent No. 6,292,659 – Olds et al.

In a communication system having Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites, one or more Mission Operations Control Centers (MOCCs), one or more Distributed Virtual Network

Managers (DVNMs), and several types of Customer Premises Equipment (CPE), individual service providers are able to control the network services they provide independently from other service providers through local management of the DVNMs.

THE PRESENT APPLICATION

The present application, however, describes a system sometimes called Enterlink, that for the first time provides a federated system with state that interconnects applications of multiple companies. The Enterlink connects participant companies and applications, through the Enterlink bus, with each other and with consolidated data stores, third party services, core services, public process applications, and private process applications. The Enterlink bus uses, for the first time, metachannels, a metachannel engine and a metachannel repository. Connectors connect the Enterlink public process applications and the company private process applications with the bus. The invention can be applied to the automotive retail industry, among others. The Enterlink applications, core applications, and bus, may be operated as a service to company participants.

The present application further describes an Enterlink Conductor that contains a process engine (compound processes), Enterlink Conductor engine, Enterlink Conductor repository, and compound process repository of business-to-business (B2B) relationships. The process engine (compound processes) 910 operates on compound public processes. The Enterlink Conductor engine controls interactions between Enterlink compound processes, participants, metachannels, and Enterlink applications. The compound process repository models the implemented combinations of singular public processes. The process engine (compound processes) executes the compound processes. Instances of these processes are triggered by events initiated by Enterlink applications and participating companies. The process engine (compound

processes) tracks process activities and transitions between the activities until the process instance reaches its conclusion. The Enterlink Conductor user interface and process engine user interface provide the capability to enter process models and manage the activities of the process engine (compound processes) and Enterlink conductor engine. The Enterlink Conductor repository contains an object model that directs the interactions among processes, participants, metachannels, and Enterlink applications.

In an aspect, the present invention, e.g. as claimed in independent claims 1, 2, 25, and 26, includes a conductor comprising a second process engine that executes compound processes; a compound process repository that stores compound processes; a process engine user interface to monitor and manage the second process engine; a conductor engine that controls the operation of the second process engine; a conductor repository that stores participant objects and relationship objects; and a conductor user interface to monitor and manage the conductor engine.

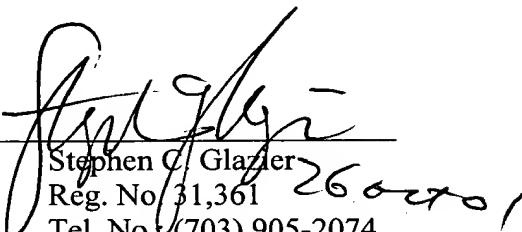
Bender et al., Hitz et al., Cashman et al., White, Walker, Bartholomew et al., Ramstrom et al., Farris et al., Gupta et al., Bretscher, Conklin et al., Bowman-Amuah, and Olds et al. fail to disclose a federated system, a bus, and a conductor as claimed in claims 1, 2, 25 and 26 (and their dependent claims as applicable) that include a conductor comprising a second process engine that executes compound processes; a compound process repository that stores compound processes; a process engine user interface to monitor and manage the second process engine; a conductor engine that controls the operation of the second process engine; a conductor repository that stores participant objects and relationship objects; and a conductor user interface to monitor and manage the conductor engine.

Therefore, the present application claims subject matter which is not disclosed, taught or suggested by the foregoing references and is patentable in light thereof. Accordingly, granting of

this Petition to Make Special and expedited examination of the claims in the present application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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